

Application No. Not Assigned
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Preliminary Amendment
Attorney Docket No. H01.2-11410-US01

Amendments To The Specification:

Please add the following new headings after the Title:
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 1, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

The invention relates to a device for thickening or dehydrating sludges, sediments fro waters or the like, particularly excess sludges in sewage treatment plants, ~~according to claim 1 or 2.~~

Please delete the second sentence on page 2, line 12, which begins with "The object is attained....."

Please add the following heading at page 2, before line 13:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

In an alternative solution ~~to the inventive object according to claim 2,~~ an eccentric screw pump and a cylindrical-shaped screen are also driven together by the same shaft. The sewage sludge which is admixed to the flocculant is supplied, via an appropriate feed duct, to the associated end of the cylindrical-shaped screen, i.e. that end of the cylindrical-shaped screen which faces away from the eccentric screw pump. A filtrate discharge outlet is located at the upstream end of the cylindrical-shaped screen whereas the thickened sludge is discharged via the eccentric screw pump.

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Please add the following heading to page 5, before line 27:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following heading and paragraph to page 6, before line 4:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

While this invention may be embodied in many different forms, there are described in detail herein a specific preferred embodiment of the invention. This description is an exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the invention to the particular embodiment illustrated

Please add the following new paragraph after the last text on page 7:

The above disclosure is intended to be illustrative and not exhaustive. This description will suggest many variations and alternatives to one of ordinary skill in this art. All these alternatives and variations are intended to be included within the scope of the claims where the term "comprising" means "including, but not limited to". Those familiar with the art may recognize other equivalents to the specific embodiments described herein which equivalents are also intended to be encompassed by the claims.

Further, the particular features presented in the dependent claims can be combined with each other in other manners within the scope of the invention such that the invention should be recognized as also specifically directed to other embodiments having any other possible combination of the features of the dependent claims. For instance, for purposes of claim publication, any dependent claim which follows should be taken as alternatively written in a multiple dependent form from all prior claims which possess all antecedents referenced in such dependent claim if such multiple dependent format is an accepted format within the jurisdiction (e.g. each claim depending directly from claim 1 should be alternatively taken as depending from all previous claims). In jurisdictions where multiple dependent claim formats are restricted, the following dependent claims should each be also taken as alternatively written in each singly

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dependent claim format which creates a dependency from a prior antecedent-possessing claim other than the specific claim listed in such dependent claim below.

This completes the description of the preferred and alternate embodiments of the invention. Those skilled in the art may recognize other equivalents to the specific embodiment described herein which equivalents are intended to be encompassed by the claims attached hereto.